WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An inkjet printing apparatus for forming an image using a printing head for ejecting ink and an ink containing section for containing the ink to be supplied to the printing head, comprising:

means for discharging the ink through an ink ejection opening of said printing head to stabilize ink ejecting characteristics of said printing head;

means for detecting the degree of use of the ink in said ink containing section;

means for comparing the detected degree of use of the ink with a predetermined value; and

control means for changing the amount discharged by said discharging means in accordance with the result of the comparison.

2. An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said detecting means detects the degree of use of the ink based on the consumption of the ink in the ink containing section.

3. An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said detecting means detects the degree of use of the ink based on the amount of ink remaining in the ink containing section.

4. An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a plurality of said printing heads and said ink containing sections are used in association with plural types of inks, and further comprising means for judging whether there is an ink that is not used to form an image when the image is formed, on the basis of the judgment result by said judging means, said detecting means detects the degree of use of the ink in the ink containing section containing the ink that is not used to form the image to contribute to the comparison with the predetermined value and the process of changing the amount discharged.

5. An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said judging means judges whether there is an ink that is not used to form the image based on a printing information in association with the image data.

6. An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the predetermined value depends on the time that passes since a predetermined point in time that comes after the ink is contained in said ink containing section.

7. An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the date of manufacture of said ink containing section serves as a reference for said predetermined point in time.

8. An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said discharging means performs the discharging process by driving the printing head to cause preliminary ejections of the ink.

9. An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the control means causes the discharging process to be performed during the formation of the image and changes the number of the preliminary ejections to change the amount discharged.

10. An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the control means causes the discharging process to be performed during the formation of the image and changes time intervals at which it is performed, thereby changing the amount discharged.

11. An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the ink includes a pigment as a coloring material.

12. An inkjet printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the ink is a black ink.